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**In the Claims:**

**Claim 1** (currently amended) Isolated polynucleotide ~~comprising~~ of the sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 8 or one of its fragments.

**Claim 2** (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein it is a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 8.

**Claim 3** (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein it is a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9.

**Claim 4** (currently amended) A An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 4, SEQ.ID.NO. 5, SEQ.ID.NO. 11 and SEQ.ID.NO. 12.

**Claim 5** (currently amended) A An isolated polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13.

**Claim 6** (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 14 ~~or one of its fragments~~.

**Cancel Claim 7.**

**Claim 8** (previously presented) An expression vector containing a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13.

**Claim 9** (previously presented) A host cell transformed or transfected by an expression vector according to claim 8.

**Claim 10** (currently amended) A process for preparing an isolated polypeptide ~~comprising~~ corresponding to the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or one of the fragments of the ~~latter~~ said SEQ ID NO. 13 or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or one of the fragments of the latter, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological ~~an~~ and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, said preparation process comprising the following steps:

(a) culture, under suitable conditions to obtain the expression of said polypeptide of ~~e~~ a host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13, the sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or also one of the fragments of the latter, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein human GHRN protein and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, and

(b) isolation of the polypeptide from the host cell cultures.

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**Claim 11** (previously presented)      An antibody or antigen-binding fragment of the latter, which specifically binds the protein sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 14 but not the protein of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 10.

**Claims 12 to 17** (cancelled).

**Claim 18** (previously presented)      A method for the identification of compounds capable of binding human GHRH and modulating cell proliferation comprising:

(a)    bring each candidate compound into contact with an isolated polypeptide comprising:

- either a fragment of the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9,
- or a fragment of the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13,

under condition and for a time sufficient to allow the candidate agent to bind to the polypeptide, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, and

- (b) detection of the binding of each candidate compound to said polypeptide and identification, from the candidate compounds, of the compounds capable of binding human GHRH and modulating cell proliferation.

**Claim 19** (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a proliferative disease comprising an amount of a polynucleotide of claim 1 sufficient to treat said disease and an inert carrier.

**Claim 20** (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a proliferative disease comprising an amount of a polypeptide of claim 6 sufficient to treat said disease and an inert carrier.

**Claim 21** (previously presented) A method of treating a proliferative disease in a warm-blooded animal comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal an amount of polynucleotide of claim 1 sufficient to treat said disease.

**Claim 22** (previously presented) A method of treating a proliferative disease in a warm-blooded animal an amount of polypeptide of claim 6 sufficient to treat said disease.